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**THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT  
ANNOUNCES \$249 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) announced today that California has received approximately \$249 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to assist eligible low-income households in meeting their immediate home heating and cooling needs in 2009.

"In these difficult economic times, we recognize that many Californians are having difficulty paying for basic needs," said CSD Director Lloyd Throne. "High utility bills overwhelm low-income households as they pay a higher share of their income for home energy than other households. These funds will help us reduce this burden for thousands of hard-working low-income households across the State."

The federal funding was included in H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 signed by former President George Bush on September 30, 2008.

LIHEAP is administered by the CSD through a statewide network of local community-based organizations. The funding will enable CSD to assist approximately 350,000 low-income Californians with their utility bills in 2009.

LIHEAP helps households with incomes at or below 75 percent of the State Median Income pay their utility bill and respond to energy-related crises, as well as provide no-cost weatherization services such as attic insulation, weather-stripping, and minor housing repairs.

Priority for LIHEAP assistance is given to households with the highest energy burden in relationship to household income while taking into consideration vulnerable populations such as the elderly, disabled and families with young children.

For more information about eligibility criteria and applying for LIHEAP, please visit [www.csd.ca.gov](http://www.csd.ca.gov) or call toll-free 1-866-675-6623 for a service provider in your area.

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CSD is the state-level partner with a statewide network of local community service agencies dedicated to helping low-income Californians achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, meet their home energy needs, and reside in housing free from the dangers of lead hazards.